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CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 14, 19, 37 - 39, 49, 51 - 53, 55, 62, 67, 68, 70, 74, 97 - 99, 111 - 113, 115, 139, 140, 157, 158, 162, 164, 166, 168, 177, 194 and 200. Please cancel claims 36, 96, 124 - 138, 141 - 156, 159, 160, 169 - 176 and 179 - 190. All other claims are unchanged.

1 1. (currently amended) A system for identifying and measuring  
2 concentrations of elements in fluids, comprising:  
3 an ionic preconcentration cell, comprising:  
4 an upper high surface area electrode comprising a high  
5 specific surface area thereof;  
6 a lower high surface area electrode comprising a high  
7 specific surface area thereof, substantially parallel to  
8 said upper high surface area electrode;  
9 a central flow interelectrode gap separating said upper  
10 and lower high surface area electrodes by a predetermined  
11 interelectrode gap width; and  
12 fluid flow means for flowing a fluid through said  
13 central flow interelectrode gap; and  
14 calibration data comprising background data related to a,  
15 rate at which photons are detected to be emitted from at least  
16 one background data energy channel of said preconcentration cell  
17 or an equivalent cell, when said preconcentration cell or  
18 equivalent cell is filled with a highly purified form of a fluid  
19 of interest and exposed to x-rays associated with said cell  
20 ~~characterizing a response from said cell when said cell or an~~  
21 ~~equivalent cell is exposed to x-rays under calibration~~

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22 ~~conditions, used in combination with test data characterizing a~~  
23 ~~response from said cell when said cell is exposed to x-rays under~~  
24 ~~test conditions, to deduce an identity, or measurement of~~  
25 ~~concentration, of at least one element in said fluid.~~

1 2. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

2 voltage application means for applying a voltage  
3 differential between said upper high surface area electrode and  
4 said lower high surface area electrode while said fluid is  
5 flowing through said central flow interelectrode gap.

1 3. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, said voltage  
2 application means further comprising:

3 a transportable voltage supply connected across said upper  
4 and lower high surface area electrodes for applying an  
5 electrostatic charge across said electrodes and thereby  
6 maintaining ions from said at least one element entrained in said  
7 electrodes during transport of said ionic preconcentration cell.

1 4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, said ionic  
2 preconcentration cell further comprising:

3 an upper x-ray transmission window in intimate contact with  
4 an upper surface of said upper high surface area electrode.

1 5. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, said ionic  
2 preconcentration cell further comprising:

3 a lower x-ray transmission window in intimate contact with a  
4 lower surface of said lower high surface area electrode.

1 6. (original) The system of claim 1, said ionic  
2 preconcentration cell further comprising:

3 inlet flow means for entering a fluid into said ionic

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4 preconcentration cell and enabling said fluid to flow through  
5 said central flow interelectrode gap.

1 7. (currently amended) The system of claim 6, said inlet flow  
2 means comprising at least one planar inlet flow slot  
3 substantially coplanar with said central flow interelectrode gap.

1 8. (currently amended) The system of claim 6, said inlet flow  
2 means comprising a plurality of mutually-substantially coplanar  
3 inlet flow tubes substantially coplanar with said central flow  
4 interelectrode gap and substantially parallel with one another:

1 9. (previously presented) The system of claim 6, said inlet  
2 flow means comprising turbulence enhancement means for enhancing  
3 a turbulence of the flow of said fluid to induce mixing of said  
4 flow to enable uniform extraction of said at least one element  
5 from the flow stream.

1 10. (currently amended) The system of claim 6, said inlet  
2 flow means comprising access means for accessing said inlet flow  
3 means for physically cleaning debris therefrom.

1 11. (original) The system of claim 1, said ionic  
2 preconcentration cell further comprising:  
3 outlet flow means for exiting said fluid out from said ionic  
4 preconcentration cell after said fluid has flowed through said  
5 central flow interelectrode gap.

1 12. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, said  
2 outlet flow means comprising at least one outlet flow slot  
3 substantially coplanar with said central flow interelectrode gap.

1 13. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, said  
2 outlet flow means comprising a plurality of outlet flow tubes

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3 substantially coplanar with said central flow interelectrode gap  
4 and substantially parallel with one another.

1 14. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, said outlet  
2 flow means comprising access means for accessing said outlet  
3 ~~inlet~~ flow means for physically cleaning debris therefrom.

1 15. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, said ionic  
2 preconcentration cell further comprising:  
3 a cell collector body maintaining a position of said upper  
4 and lower high surface area electrodes and said upper x-ray  
5 transmission window relative to one another, said cell collector  
6 body in turn comprising a material comprising:  
7 substantially no conductivity;  
8 resistance to ionic leaching; and  
9 resistance to radiation degradation from x-rays to  
10 which said preconcentration cell is to be exposed.

1 16. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, said ionic  
2 preconcentration cell further comprising:  
3 a cell collector body maintaining a position of said upper  
4 and lower high surface area electrodes and said upper x-ray  
5 transmission window relative to one another, said cell collector  
6 body comprising a material selected from a material group  
7 consisting of: plastic, glass, and fiberglass.

1 17. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, said ionic  
2 preconcentration cell further comprising:  
3 a cell collector body maintaining a position of said upper  
4 and lower high surface area electrodes and said upper x-ray  
5 transmission window relative to one another, said cell collector

6 body comprising a non-conducting, machinable polymer  
7 substantially resistant to radiation degradation.

1 18. (previously presented) The system of claim 1:

2 said upper high surface area electrode further comprising an  
3 upper electrode thickness less than or equal to approximately  $\ell =$   
4  $1/(\mu * \rho)$ , wherein:

5  $\ell$  designates an optical depth of said upper high surface  
6 area electrode when wetted with an element of interest for which  
7 a fluidic concentration is to be measured, in said fluid;

8  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said upper  
9 high surface area electrode when wetted with said element of  
10 interest in said fluid; and

11  $\rho$  designates a material density of said upper high surface  
12 area electrode when wetted with said element of interest in said  
13 fluid.

1 19. (currently amended) The system of claim 18:

2 said lower high surface area electrode further comprising a  
3 lower ~~an upper~~ electrode thickness less than or equal to  
4 approximately  $\ell = 1/(\mu * \rho)$ , wherein:

5  $\ell$  designates an optical depth of said lower high surface  
6 area electrode when wetted with an element of interest for which  
7 a fluidic concentration is to be measured, in said fluid;

8  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said lower  
9 high surface area electrode when wetted with said element of  
10 interest in said fluid; and

11  $\rho$  designates a material density of said lower high surface

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12 area electrode when wetted with said element of interest in said  
13 fluid.

1 20. (original) The system of claim 1, said upper high surface  
2 area electrode and said lower high surface area electrode further  
3 comprising an ordinary surface area approximately equal to an  
4 interrogation spot area of x-rays to which said preconcentration  
5 cell is to be exposed.

1 21. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, said upper  
2 x-ray transmission window comprising a surface area approximately  
3 equal to an interrogation spot area of x-rays to which said  
4 preconcentration cell is to be exposed.

1 22. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, said  
2 central flow interelectrode gap comprising said predetermined  
3 interelectrode gap width, designated  $d$ , within an interelectrode  
4 gap range specified by:

$$5 \quad d = \frac{\sigma \Phi w_i}{q \varepsilon w_f n_f C F} \times 100\% \approx 2 \times 10^{-9} \frac{\Phi w_i A}{q \varepsilon w_f n_f F} \times 100\% \propto \frac{\Phi A}{\varepsilon F}, \text{ wherein:}$$

6  $\varepsilon$  designates a predetermined percentage of at least one  
7 element of interest to be extracted from said fluid,  $\sigma$  designates  
8 a composite conductivity of said fluid,  $\Phi$  designates a potential  
9 applied by said voltage application means across said electrodes,  
10  $q = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$  Coulomb designates the unit charge,  $A$  designates an  
11 ordinary surface area covered by said electrodes,  $n_f$  designates a  
12 number density of said fluid,  $w_i$  and  $w_f$  designate atomic /  
13 molecular weights, respectively, of said at least one element of  
14 interest and of said fluid,  $C$  designates a concentration of said  
15 at least one element of interest in said fluid, and  $F$  designates

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16 a flow rate of said fluid through said ionic preconcentration  
17 cell;

18 said high surface area electrodes further comprise said  
19 ordinary surface area  $A$  approximately equal to an interrogation  
20 spot area of x-rays to which said preconcentration cell is to be  
21 exposed;

22 said  $\varepsilon$  is chosen to be below approximately 5% for said at  
23 least one element of interest;

24 said  $\phi$  is chosen to be below an electrochemical potential of  
25 said at least one element of interest and below an electrolysis  
26 potential of said fluid;

27 said  $F$  is chosen to exert no more than approximately .1 atm  
28 of pressure upon an upper x-ray transmission window of said ionic  
29 preconcentration cell in intimate contact with an upper surface  
30 of said upper high surface area electrode;

31 said  $n_f$  and said  $w_f$  are chosen with reference to said at  
32 least one element of interest; and

33 said  $w_i$  is chosen with reference to said fluid.

1 23. (previously presented) The system of claim 22, said  
2 central flow interelectrode gap comprising said predetermined  
3 interelectrode gap width,  $d$ , with:

4 a minimum gap width selected from a minimum gap width group  
5 consisting of 2 mm, 1 mm, .5 mm, and .25 mm; and

6 a maximum gap width selected from a maximum gap width group  
7 consisting of 2 mm, 5 mm, and 10 mm.

1 24. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, said upper  
2 x-ray transmission window comprising:

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3 an atomic number below 10;  
4 structural rigidity to support up to 1/10 atm. of pressure  
5 without bowing more than approximately 100 microns;  
6 substantial impermeability relative to said fluid;  
7 x-ray transparency greater than 90% for characteristic  
8 photon energies from an element of interest for which a fluidic  
9 concentration is to be measured;  
10 x-ray scattering therefrom minimized to less than  
11 approximately 10% of radiation scattered from a column of said  
12 fluid equal to one optical depth in said fluid of a  
13 characteristic photonic energy from an element of interest for  
14 which a fluidic concentration is to be measured; and  
15 freedom from any single contaminant in excess of 1 part per  
16 million, when measured by x-ray fluorescence.

1 25. (previously presented) The system of claim 5, said lower  
2 x-ray transmission window comprising:

3 an atomic number below 10;  
4 structural rigidity to support up to 1/10 atm. of pressure  
5 without bowing more than approximately 100 microns;  
6 substantial impermeability relative to said fluid;  
7 x-ray transparency greater than 90% for characteristic  
8 photon energies from an element of interest for which a fluidic  
9 concentration is to be measured;  
10 x-ray scattering therefrom minimized to less than  
11 approximately 10% of radiation scattered from a column of said  
12 fluid equal to one optical depth in said fluid of a  
13 characteristic photonic energy from an element of interest for



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14 which a fluidic concentration is to be measured; and  
15 freedom from any single contaminant in excess of 1 part per  
16 million, when measured by x-ray fluorescence.

1 26. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, said upper  
2 x-ray transmission window comprising a polyimide film comprising  
3 structural rigidity to support up to 1/10 atm. of pressure  
4 without bowing more than approximately 100 microns.

1 27. (previously presented) The system of claim 5, said lower  
2 x-ray transmission window comprising a polyimide film comprising  
3 structural rigidity to support up to 1/10 atm. of pressure  
4 without bowing more than approximately 100 microns.

1 28. (previously presented) The system of claim 1:  
2 said upper high surface area electrode and said lower high  
3 surface area electrode each comprising a high surface area  
4 material in turn comprising:  
5 a large plurality of pores characterized by a specific  
6 surface area of at least approximately 100 m<sup>2</sup>/g;  
7 an average pore diameter of said pores between approximately  
8 30 nm and 10 nm per pore;  
9 a distribution of the pore diameters grouped with a standard  
10 deviation of less than approximately 10nm around said average  
11 pore diameter;  
12 an x-ray transparency greater than approximately 90% for  
13 characteristic photon energies from an element of interest for  
14 which a fluidic concentration is to be measured;  
15 electrical conductivity of 10-40 mOhms-cm when fabricated  
16 into a ¼ mm thick electrode;

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17 the ability to contain approximately at least 0.1% by weight  
18 of foreign material relative to said high surface area material  
19 prior to saturation;

20 high structural rigidity wherein a displacement under the  
21 flow of said fluid does not exceed approximately 0.25mm;

22 high wetting ability wherein an approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mm thick  
23 sheet of said high surface area material becomes substantially  
24 wetted in less than approximately three seconds; and

25 freedom from metallic impurities in excess of approximately  
26 .5 parts per million, when measured by x-ray fluorescence  
27 analysis.

1 29. (previously presented) The system of claim 28, said large  
2 plurality of pores characterized by a specific surface area of at  
3 least approximately 400 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

1 30. (previously presented) The system of claim 28, said large  
2 plurality of pores characterized by a specific surface area of at  
3 most approximately 1000 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

1 31. (previously presented) The system of claim 29, said large  
2 plurality of pores characterized by a specific surface area of at  
3 most approximately 1000 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

1 32. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, said upper  
2 high surface area electrode and said lower high surface area  
3 electrode each comprising a high surface area material in turn  
4 comprising:

5 an x-ray transparency greater than approximately 90% for  
6 characteristic photon energies from an element of interest for  
7 which a fluidic concentration is to be measured.

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1 33. (original) The system of claim 1, said upper high surface  
2 area electrode and said lower high surface area electrode each  
3 comprising a carbon aerogel.

1 34. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, said upper  
2 high surface area electrode comprising a thickness less than  
3 approximately  $\ell = 1/(\mu * \rho)$ ; wherein:

4  $\ell$  designates an optical depth of said upper high surface  
5 area electrode when wetted with said fluid;

6  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said high  
7 surface area electrode when wetted with said fluid; and

8  $\rho$  designates a density of said high surface area electrode  
9 when wetted with said fluid.

1 35. (currently amended) The system of claim 34, said lower high  
2 surface area electrode comprising a thickness less than  
3 approximately  $\ell = 1/(\mu * \rho)$ ; wherein:

4  $\ell$  designates an optical depth of said lower high surface  
5 area electrode when wetted with said fluid;

6  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said lower  
7 surface area electrode when wetted with said fluid; and

8  $\rho$  designates a density of said lower surface area electrode  
9 when wetted with said fluid.

1 36. (cancelled)

1 37. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, said  
2 calibration data further comprising:

3 sensitivity data related to a rate at which photons are  
4 detected to be emitted from at least one sensitivity data energy

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5 | channel of said preconcentration cell ~~or an equivalent cell~~, when  
6 | said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~ is filled with a  
7 | first calibration solution, containing at least one element of  
8 | interest in a fluid of interest in known concentration above a  
9 | minimum detection level of x-ray detection equipment to be used  
10 | for said detecting and measuring, and when said preconcentration  
11 | cell ~~or equivalent cell~~ is exposed to x-rays.

1 | 38. (currently amended) The system of claim 2, said  
2 | calibration data further comprising:

3 | ion extraction rate data related to a rate at which photons  
4 | are detected to be emitted from at least one ion extraction rate  
5 | data energy channel of said preconcentration cell ~~or an~~  
6 | ~~equivalent cell~~, when a calibration solution, containing said at  
7 | least one element of interest in a fluid of interest in known  
8 | concentration below a minimum detection level of x-ray detection  
9 | equipment to be used for said detecting and measuring, is flowed  
10 | through the central flow interelectrode gap of said  
11 | preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~, at a substantially  
12 | constant flow rate, while the voltage application means applies  
13 | the voltage differential across the electrodes of said  
14 | preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~, below an  
15 | electrochemical potential of said at least one element of  
16 | interest and below an electrolysis potential of said ~~second~~  
17 | calibration solution, and when said preconcentration cell ~~or~~  
18 | ~~equivalent cell~~ is exposed to x-rays.

1 | 39. (currently amended) The system of claim 2, said  
2 | calibration data further comprising:

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3 background data related to a rate at which photons are  
4 detected to be emitted from at least one background data energy  
5 channel of said preconcentration cell ~~or an equivalent cell~~, when  
6 said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~ is filled with a  
7 highly purified form of a fluid of interest and exposed to x-  
8 rays;

9 sensitivity data related to a rate at which photons are  
10 detected to be emitted from at least one sensitivity data energy  
11 channel of said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~, when  
12 said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~ is filled with a  
13 first calibration solution, containing at least one element of  
14 interest in said fluid of interest in known concentration above a  
15 minimum detection level of x-ray detection equipment to be used  
16 for said detecting and measuring, and when said preconcentration  
17 cell ~~or equivalent cell~~ is exposed to x-rays; and

18 ion extraction rate data related to a rate at which photons  
19 are detected to be emitted from at least one ion extraction rate  
20 data energy channel of said preconcentration cell ~~or an~~  
21 ~~equivalent cell~~, when a second calibration solution, containing  
22 said at least one element of interest in said fluid of interest  
23 in known concentration below said minimum detection level of x-  
24 ray detection equipment to be used for said detecting and  
25 measuring, is flowed through the central flow interelectrode gap  
26 of said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~, at a  
27 substantially constant flow rate, while the voltage application  
28 means applies the voltage differential across the electrodes of  
29 said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~, below an

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30 electrochemical potential of said at least one element of  
31 interest and below an electrolysis potential of said second  
32 calibration solution, and when said preconcentration cell ~~or~~  
33 ~~equivalent cell~~ is exposed to x-rays.

1 40. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, further  
2 comprising:

3 test data accumulation means for obtaining said test data  
4 comprising data related to a rate at which photons are detected  
5 to be emitted from at least one energy channel of said  
6 preconcentration cell when said fluid, suspected to contain at  
7 least one element of interest, is flowed through said central  
8 flow interelectrode gap at a substantially constant flow rate,  
9 while said voltage application means applies said voltage  
10 differential across said electrodes below an electrochemical  
11 potential of said at least one element of interest and below an  
12 electrolysis potential of said fluid, and when said  
13 preconcentration cell is exposed to x-rays.

1 41. (original) The system of claim 40, further comprising:  
2 analysis means for analyzing said test data and deducing  
3 therefrom a concentration in said fluid, if any, of the suspected  
4 at least one element of interest.

1 42. (previously presented) The system of claim 39, further  
2 comprising:

3 test data accumulation means for obtaining said test data  
4 comprising data related to a rate at which photons are detected  
5 to be emitted from at least one energy channel of said  
6 preconcentration cell when said fluid, suspected to contain at

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7 least one element of interest, is flowed through said central  
8 flow interelectrode gap at a substantially constant flow rate,  
9 while said voltage application means applies said voltage  
10 differential across said electrodes below an electrochemical  
11 potential of said at least one element of interest and below an  
12 electrolysis potential of said fluid, and when said  
13 preconcentration cell is exposed to x-rays.

1 43. (original) The system of claim 42, further comprising:  
2 analysis means for analyzing said test data in relation to  
3 said background data, said sensitivity data, and said ion  
4 extraction rate data, and deducing therefrom a concentration in  
5 said fluid, if any, of the suspected at least one element of  
6 interest.

1 44. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, further  
2 comprising:  
3 voltage application means for applying a voltage  
4 differential between said upper high surface area electrode and  
5 said lower high surface area electrode while said fluid is  
6 flowing through said central flow interelectrode gap; and  
7 x-ray source means positioned and aligned relative to said  
8 upper x-ray transmission window for exposing said  
9 preconcentration cell to x-rays substantially transmitted through  
10 said upper x-ray transmission window, while flowing said fluid  
11 and while applying said voltage differential.

1 45. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, said  
2 voltage application means further comprising:  
3 a transportable voltage supply for applying an electrostatic

4 charge across said electrodes and thereby maintaining ions from  
 5 said at least one element entrained in said electrodes during  
 6 transport of said ionic preconcentration cell: after ceasing flow  
 7 of said fluid, while transporting said ionic preconcentration  
 8 cell to an x-ray source means for emitting x-rays toward said  
 9 preconcentration cell, and while exposing said preconcentration  
 10 cell to x-rays.

1 46. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
 2 flow control means for controlling a flow rate of said fluid  
 3 through said ionic preconcentration cell so as to maintain  $\varepsilon$ ,  
 4 which designates a predetermined percentage of at least one  
 5 element of interest to be extracted from said fluid, below  
 6 approximately 5% for said at least one element of interest.

1 47. (previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein  
 2 said  $\varepsilon$  is maintained below an extraction percentage selected from  
 3 an extraction percentage group consisting of approximately 4%,  
 4 3%, 2%, and 1%.

1 48. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, further  
 2 comprising flow control means for:

3 controlling a flow rate  $F$  of said fluid through said ionic  
 4 preconcentration cell and maintaining said  $F$  at a substantially  
 5 constant level so as to maintain  $\varepsilon$ , which designates a  
 6 predetermined percentage of at least one element of interest to  
 7 be extracted from said fluid and is specified by:

$$8 \quad \varepsilon = \frac{\Gamma_{ie}}{\Gamma_{is}} = \frac{\sigma \Phi w_i}{qd w_f n_f CF} \times 100\%,$$

9 below approximately 5% for said at least one element of interest;



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10 wherein:

11  $\Gamma_{ie}$  and  $\Gamma_{is}$  designate rates at which ions of said at least  
12 one element of interest are respectively extracted from said  
13 fluid by said cell and supplied to said cell by said fluid,  $\sigma$   
14 designates a composite conductivity of said fluid,  $\Phi$  designates  
15 a potential applied by said voltage application means across said  
16 electrodes,  $d$  designates said predetermined interelectrode gap  
17 width of said central flow interelectrode gap,  $q = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$   
18 Coulomb designates the unit charge,  $A$  designates an ordinary  
19 surface area covered by said electrodes,  $n_f$  designates a number  
20 density of said fluid,  $w_i$  and  $w_f$  designate atomic / molecular  
21 weights, respectively, of said at least one element of interest  
22 and of said fluid, and  $C$  designates a concentration of said at  
23 least one element of interest in said fluid; and

24 for having said concentration  $C$  in a range where  
25 conductivity varies substantially linearly with concentration,  
26 with  $C$  in units of parts per billion, wherein  $\sigma$  is approximated  
27 by:

28 
$$\sigma \approx 2 \times 10^{-9} C / \text{Ohm-cm} .$$

1 49. (currently amended) The system of claim 48, wherein said  
2  $\epsilon$  is maintained below an extraction percentage selected from an  
3 ~~the~~ extraction percentage group consisting of approximately 4%,  
4 3%, 2%, and 1%.

1 50. (original) The system of claim 2, said voltage  
2 application means applying said voltage differential across said  
3 electrodes below an electrochemical potential of at least one

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4 element of interest and below an electrolysis potential of said  
5 fluid.

1 51. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, further  
2 comprising:

3 leakage current monitoring means for monitoring a total non-  
4 saturated concentration of dissolved ions in said upper and lower  
5 high surface area electrodes ~~while said electrodes are not~~  
6 ~~saturated~~, by monitoring a leakage current from said cell.

1 52. (currently amended) The system of claim 51, further  
2 comprising:

3 ultra-low trace measuring means for measuring at least one  
4 element of interest comprising ultra-low trace, high valence ions  
5 in said fluid, based on said detecting ~~said~~ the non-saturated  
6 saturation state.

1 53. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, further  
2 comprising:

3 leakage current monitoring means for monitoring a total non-  
4 saturated concentration of dissolved ions in said upper and lower  
5 high surface area electrodes ~~while said electrodes are not~~  
6 ~~saturated~~; and

7 flow rate adjustment means for adjusting the flow of said  
8 fluid through said ionic preconcentration cell to control a  
9 percentage of said ions extracted from said fluid, based on said  
10 monitoring of said leakage current by said leakage current  
11 monitoring means.

1 54. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, further  
2 comprising:

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time control means for controlling how long said fluid flows through said ionic preconcentration cell based on setting an impurity concentration  $C$ , in a range where conductivity varies substantially linearly with concentration, to a predetermined desired concentration detection level and flowing said fluid for a time  $t$  given by:

$$t \propto \frac{S\ell}{\sigma} \propto \frac{S\ell}{C}; \text{ wherein:}$$

$S$  designates a sensitivity of x-ray detection equipment to be used for said detecting and measuring;

$\ell$  designates a thickness of said upper high surface area electrode; and

$\sigma$  designates a composite conductivity of said fluid.

55. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising triggering means for triggering an action in response to said system detecting that a concentration of at least one element of interest in said fluid has passed a predetermined, non-saturated threshold concentration.

56. (previously presented) The system of claim 55, further comprising injection action means for injecting at least one element into said fluid, thereby maintaining said concentration within a predetermined concentration range, as said action in response to said triggering means.

57. (previously presented) The system of claim 55, further comprising dilution action means for diluting at least one diluting fluid into said fluid, thereby maintaining said

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4 concentration within a predetermined concentration range, as said  
5 action in response to said triggering means.

1 58. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, further  
2 comprising:

3 ionic release means for cleaning said preconcentration cell  
4 after use by releasing ions accumulated within said high specific  
5 surface area of said electrodes into said fluid, after the  
6 accumulated ions have been exposed to x-rays and fluorescence  
7 from said preconcentration cell has been detected.

1 59. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, further  
2 comprising:

3 x-ray source means positioned and aligned relative to said  
4 upper x-ray transmission window for emitting x-rays toward said  
5 preconcentration cell substantially transmitted through said  
6 upper x-ray transmission window; and

7 x-ray fluorescence detector means positioned and aligned  
8 relative to said upper x-ray transmission window for detecting  
9 fluoresced energy emitted by said preconcentration cell due to  
10 said emitting x-rays toward said preconcentration cell, through  
11 said upper x-ray transmission window.

1 60. (previously presented) The system of claim 59, further  
2 comprising:

3 x-ray fluorescence analysis means for analyzing the detected  
4 x-ray fluoresced energy and deducing therefrom a concentration in  
5 said fluid of at least one element of interest in said fluid.

1 61. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, further  
2 comprising:

3 a telecommunications link for downloading and analyzing said  
4 test data from said ionic preconcentration cell.

1 62. (currently amended) A method for identifying and  
2 measuring concentrations of elements in fluids, comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 flowing a fluid through a central flow interelectrode gap of  
5 an ionic preconcentration cell separating an upper high specific  
6 surface area electrode from a lower high specific surface area  
7 electrode of said ionic preconcentration cell by a predetermined  
8 interelectrode gap width;

9 applying a voltage differential between said upper high  
10 surface area electrode and said lower high surface area electrode  
11 while said fluid is flowing through said central flow  
12 interelectrode gap;

13 exposing said cell to x-rays under test conditions and  
14 obtaining test data characterizing a response thereto of said  
15 cell; and

16 deducing an identity, or measurement of concentration, of at  
17 least one element in said fluid, using said test data in  
18 combination with calibration data, wherein said calibration data  
19 is obtained by:

20 filling said preconcentration cell, with a highly purified  
21 form of a fluid of interest;

22 exposing the filled preconcentration cell to x-rays;

23 acquiring background data related to a rate at which photons  
24 are detected to be emitted from at least one background data  
25 energy channel of said preconcentration cell; and

26     associating said background data with said preconcentration  
27     cell associated with said cell characterizing a response from  
28     said cell when said cell or an equivalent cell is exposed to x-  
29     rays under calibration conditions.

1     63.     (previously presented) The method of claim 62, said step  
2     of applying said voltage differential further comprising the step  
3     of:

4           applying an electrostatic charge across said electrodes and  
5     thereby maintaining ions from said at least one element entrained  
6     in said electrodes during transport of said ionic  
7     preconcentration cell, using a transportable voltage supply.

1     64.     (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2     comprising the step of:

3           intimately contacting an upper surface of said upper high  
4     surface area electrode with an upper x-ray transmission window of  
5     said ionic preconcentration cell.

1     65.     (previously presented) The method of claim 64, further  
2     comprising the step of:

3           intimately contacting a lower surface of said lower high  
4     surface area electrode with a lower x-ray transmission window of  
5     said ionic preconcentration cell.

1     66.     (original) The method of claim 62, further comprising the  
2     steps of:

3           entering a fluid into said ionic preconcentration cell using  
4     inlet flow means therefor; and

5           enabling said fluid to flow through said central flow  
6     interelectrode gap.

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1 67. (currently amended) The method of claim 66, said step of  
2 entering said fluid further comprising entering said fluid  
3 through said inlet flow means comprising at least one mutually-  
4 planar inlet flow slot substantially coplanar with said central  
5 flow interelectrode gap.

1 68. (previously presented) The method of claim 66, said step  
2 of entering said fluid further comprising entering said fluid  
3 through said inlet flow means comprising a plurality of  
4 substantially coplanar inlet flow tubes substantially coplanar  
5 with said central flow interelectrode gap and substantially  
6 parallel with one another.

1 69. (previously presented) The method of claim 66, further  
2 comprising the step of enhancing a turbulence of the flow of said  
3 fluid while entering said fluid, thereby inducing mixing of said  
4 flow for enabling uniform extraction of said at least one element  
5 from the flow stream.

1 70. (currently amended) The method of claim 66, further  
2 comprising the step of physically cleaning debris from said inlet  
3 flow means using access means for accessing said inlet flow  
4 means.

1 71. (original) The method of claim 62, further comprising the  
2 step of:  
3 exiting said fluid out from said ionic preconcentration cell  
4 after said fluid has flowed through said central flow  
5 interelectrode gap using outlet flow means therefor.

1 72. (previously presented) The method of claim 71, said step  
2 of exiting said fluid further comprising exiting said fluid

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3 through said outlet flow means comprising at least one outlet  
4 flow slot substantially coplanar with said central flow  
5 interelectrode gap.

1 73. (previously presented) The method of claim 71, said step  
2 of exiting said fluid further comprising exiting said fluid  
3 through said outlet flow means comprising a plurality of outlet  
4 flow tubes substantially coplanar with said central flow  
5 interelectrode gap and substantially parallel with one another.

1 74. (currently amended) The method of claim 71, further  
2 comprising the step of physically cleaning debris from said  
3 outlet flow means using access means for accessing said outlet  
4 ~~inlet~~-flow means.

1 75. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, further  
2 comprising the step of:  
3 maintaining a position of said upper and lower high surface  
4 area electrodes and said upper x-ray transmission window relative  
5 to one another, using a body of said ionic preconcentration cell  
6 comprising a material comprising:  
7 substantially no conductivity;  
8 resistance to ionic leaching; and  
9 resistance to radiation degradation from x-rays to  
10 which said preconcentration cell is to be exposed.

1 76. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, further  
2 comprising the step of:  
3 maintaining a position of said upper and lower high surface  
4 area electrodes and said upper x-ray transmission window relative  
5 to one another, using a body of said ionic preconcentration cell



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6 comprising a material selected from a material group consisting  
7 of: plastic, glass, and fiberglass.

1 77. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 maintaining a position of said upper and lower high surface  
4 area electrodes and said upper x-ray transmission window relative  
5 to one another, using a body of said ionic preconcentration cell  
6 comprising a material comprising a non-conducting, machinable  
7 polymer substantially resistant to radiation degradation.

1 78. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 providing said upper high surface area electrode with an  
4 upper electrode thickness thereof less than or equal to  
5 approximately  $\ell = 1/(\mu * \rho)$ , wherein:

6  $\ell$  designates an optical depth of said upper high surface  
7 area electrode when wetted with an element of interest for which  
8 a fluidic concentration is to be measured, in said fluid;

9  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said upper  
10 high surface area electrode, when wetted with said element of  
11 interest in said fluid; and

12  $\rho$  designates a material density of said upper high surface  
13 area electrode, when wetted with said element of interest in said  
14 fluid.

1 79. (previously presented) The method of claim 78, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 providing said lower high surface area electrode with a  
4 lower electrode thickness thereof less than or equal to

5 approximately  $\ell = 1/(\mu * \rho)$ , wherein:

6  $\ell$  designates an optical depth of said lower high surface  
7 area electrode when wetted with an element of interest for which  
8 a fluidic concentration is to be measured, in said fluid;

9  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said lower  
10 high surface area electrode, when wetted with said element of  
11 interest in said fluid; and

12  $\rho$  designates a material density of said lower high surface  
13 area electrode, when wetted with said element of interest in said  
14 fluid.

1 80. (original) The method of claim 62, further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 providing ordinary surface areas of said upper high surface  
4 area electrode and said lower high surface area electrode  
5 approximately equal to an interrogation spot area of x-rays to  
6 which said preconcentration cell is to be exposed.

1 81. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 providing a surface area of said upper x-ray transmission  
4 window approximately equal to an interrogation spot area of x-  
5 rays to which said preconcentration cell is to be exposed.

1 82. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 providing said central flow interelectrode gap comprising  
4 said predetermined interelectrode gap width, designated  $d$ , within  
5 an interelectrode gap range specified by:

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$$d = \frac{\sigma \Phi w_i}{q \varepsilon w_f n_f C F} \times 100\% \approx 2 \times 10^{-9} \frac{\Phi w_i A}{q \varepsilon w_f n_f F} \times 100\% \propto \frac{\Phi A}{\varepsilon F}; \text{ wherein:}$$

6  
 7  $\varepsilon$  designates a predetermined percentage of at least one  
 8 element of interest to be extracted from said fluid,  $\sigma$  designates  
 9 a composite conductivity of said fluid,  $\Phi$  designates said  
 10 voltage differential applied across said electrodes,  $q = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$   
 11 Coulomb designates the unit charge,  $A$  designates an ordinary  
 12 surface area covered by said electrodes,  $n_f$  designates a number  
 13 density of said fluid,  $w_i$  and  $w_f$  designate atomic / molecular  
 14 weights, respectively, of said at least one element of interest  
 15 and of said fluid,  $C$  designates a concentration of said at least  
 16 one element of interest in said fluid, and  $F$  designates a flow  
 17 rate of said fluid through said ionic preconcentration cell;  
 18 said high surface area electrodes further comprise said  
 19 ordinary surface area  $A$  approximately equal to an interrogation  
 20 spot area of x-rays to which said preconcentration cell is to be  
 21 exposed;  
 22 said  $\varepsilon$  is chosen to be below approximately 5% for said at  
 23 least one element of interest;  
 24 said  $\Phi$  is chosen to be below an electrochemical potential of  
 25 said at least one element of interest and below an electrolysis  
 26 potential of said fluid;  
 27 said  $F$  is chosen to exert no more than approximately .1 atm  
 28 of pressure upon an upper x-ray transmission window of said ionic  
 29 preconcentration cell in intimate contact with an upper surface  
 30 of said upper high surface area electrode;  
 31 said  $n_f$  and said  $w_f$  are chosen with reference to said at

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32 least one element of interest; and

33 said  $w_i$  is chosen with reference to said fluid.

1 83. (previously presented) The method of claim 82, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 providing said central flow interelectrode gap comprising  
4 said predetermined interelectrode gap width,  $d$ , with:

5 a minimum gap width selected from a minimum gap width group  
6 consisting of 2 mm, 1 mm, .5 mm, and .25 mm; and

7 a maximum gap width selected from a maximum gap width group  
8 consisting of 2 mm, 5 mm, and 10 mm.

1 84. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, further  
2 comprising the step of providing said upper x-ray transmission  
3 window comprising:

4 an atomic number below 10;

5 structural rigidity to support up to 1/10 atm. of pressure  
6 without bowing more than approximately 100 microns;

7 substantial impermeability relative to said fluid;

8 x-ray transparency greater than 90% for characteristic  
9 photon energies from an element of interest for which a fluidic  
10 concentration is to be measured;

11 x-ray scattering therefrom minimized to less than  
12 approximately 10% of radiation scattered from a column of said  
13 fluid equal to one optical depth in said fluid of a  
14 characteristic photonic energy from an element of interest for  
15 which a fluidic concentration is to be measured; and

16 freedom from any single contaminant in excess of 1 part per  
17 million, when measured by x-ray fluorescence.

1 85. (previously presented) The method of claim 65, further  
2 comprising the step of providing said lower x-ray transmission  
3 window comprising:

4 an atomic number below 10;

5 structural rigidity to support up to 1/10 atm. of pressure  
6 without bowing more than approximately 100 microns;

7 substantial impermeability relative to said fluid;

8 x-ray transparency greater than 90% for characteristic  
9 photon energies from an element of interest for which a fluidic  
10 concentration is to be measured;

11 x-ray scattering therefrom minimized to less than  
12 approximately 10% of radiation scattered from a column of said  
13 fluid equal to one optical depth in said fluid of a  
14 characteristic photonic energy from an element of interest for  
15 which a fluidic concentration is to be measured; and

16 freedom from any single contaminant in excess of 1 part per  
17 million, when measured by x-ray fluorescence.

1 86. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 providing said upper x-ray transmission window comprising a  
4 polyimide film comprising structural rigidity to support up to  
5 1/10 atm. of pressure without bowing more than approximately 100  
6 microns.

1 87. (previously presented) The method of claim 65, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 providing said lower x-ray transmission window comprising a  
4 polyimide film comprising structural rigidity to support up to

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5 1/10 atm. of pressure without bowing more than approximately 100  
6 microns.

1 88. (previously presented) The method of claim 62 further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 providing said upper high surface area electrode and said  
4 lower high surface area electrode each comprising a high surface  
5 area material in turn comprising:

6 a large plurality of pores characterized by a specific  
7 surface area of at least approximately 100 m<sup>2</sup>/g;

8 an average pore diameter of said pores between approximately  
9 30 nm and 10 nm per pore;

10 a distribution of the pore diameters grouped with a standard  
11 deviation of less than approximately 10nm around said average  
12 pore diameter;

13 an x-ray transparency greater than approximately 90% for  
14 characteristic photon energies from an element of interest for  
15 which a fluidic concentration is to be measured;

16 electrical conductivity of 10-40 mOhms-cm when fabricated  
17 into a ¼ mm thick electrode;

18 the ability to contain approximately at least 0.1% by weight  
19 of foreign material relative to said high surface area material  
20 prior to saturation;

21 high structural rigidity wherein a displacement under the  
22 flow of said fluid does not exceed approximately 0.25mm;

23 high wetting ability wherein an approximately ¼ mm thick  
24 sheet of said high surface area material becomes substantially  
25 wetted in less than approximately three seconds; and

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26 freedom from metallic impurities in excess of approximately  
27 .5 parts per million, when measured by x-ray fluorescence  
28 analysis.

1 89. (previously presented) The method of claim 88, said large  
2 plurality of pores characterized by a specific surface area of at  
3 least approximately 400 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

1 90. (previously presented) The method of claim 88, said large  
2 plurality of pores characterized by a specific surface area of at  
3 most approximately 1000 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

1 91. (previously presented) The method of claim 89, said large  
2 plurality of pores characterized by a specific surface area of at  
3 most approximately 1000 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

1 92. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 providing said upper high surface area electrode and said  
4 lower high surface area electrode each comprising a high surface  
5 area material in turn comprising:

6 an x-ray transparency greater than approximately 90% for  
7 characteristic photon energies from an element of interest for  
8 which a fluidic concentration is to be measured.

1 93. (original) The method of claim 62, further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 providing said upper high surface area electrode and said  
4 lower high surface area electrode each comprising a carbon  
5 aerogel.

1 94. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the step of:

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3 providing said upper high surface area electrode with a  
 4 thickness less than approximately  $\ell = 1/(\mu * \rho)$ ; wherein:  
 5  $\ell$  designates an optical depth of said upper high surface  
 6 area electrode when wetted with said fluid;  
 7  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said high  
 8 surface area electrode when wetted with said fluid; and  
 9  $\rho$  designates a density of said high surface area electrode  
 10 when wetted with said fluid.

1 95. (previously presented) The method of claim 94, further  
 2 comprising the step of:  
 3 providing said lower high surface area electrode with a  
 4 thickness less than approximately  $\ell = 1/(\mu * \rho)$ ; wherein:  
 5  $\ell$  designates an optical depth of said lower high surface  
 6 area electrode when wetted with said fluid;  
 7  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said lower  
 8 surface area electrode when wetted with said fluid; and  
 9  $\rho$  designates a density of said lower surface area electrode  
 10 when wetted with said fluid.

1 96. (cancelled)

1 97. (currently amended) The method of claim 62, further  
 2 comprising the step of obtaining said calibration data by:  
 3 filling said preconcentration cell ~~or an equivalent cell,~~  
 4 with a first calibration solution containing at least one element  
 5 of interest in a fluid of interest in known concentration above a  
 6 minimum detection level of x-ray detection equipment to be used  
 7 for said detecting and measuring;



8 | exposing the filled preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~  
9 | to x-rays;

10 | acquiring sensitivity data related to a rate at which  
11 | photons are detected to be emitted from at least one sensitivity  
12 | data energy channel of said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent~~  
13 | ~~cell~~; and

14 | associating said sensitivity data with said preconcentration  
15 | cell.

1 | 98. (currently amended) The method of claim 62, further  
2 | comprising the step of obtaining said calibration data by:  
3 | applying said voltage differential across the electrodes of  
4 | said preconcentration cell ~~or an equivalent cell~~, below an  
5 | electrochemical potential of said at least one element of  
6 | interest and below an electrolysis potential of a calibration  
7 | solution;

8 | flowing said calibration solution containing said at least  
9 | one element of interest in a fluid of interest in known  
10 | concentration below a minimum detection level of x-ray detection  
11 | equipment to be used for said detecting and measuring through the  
12 | central flow interelectrode gap of said preconcentration cell ~~or~~  
13 | ~~equivalent cell~~ at a substantially constant flow rate;

14 | exposing said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~ with  
15 | said calibration solution therein to x-rays;

16 | acquiring ion extraction rate data related to a rate at  
17 | which photons are detected to be emitted from at least one ion  
18 | extraction rate data energy channel of said preconcentration cell  
19 | ~~or equivalent cell~~; and

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20 associating said ion extraction rate data with said  
21 preconcentration cell.

1 99. (currently amended) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the step of obtaining said calibration data by:  
3 filling said preconcentration cell ~~or an equivalent cell~~,  
4 with a highly purified form of a fluid of interest;  
5 exposing the filled preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~  
6 to x-rays;  
7 acquiring background data related to a rate at which photons  
8 are detected to be emitted from at least one background data  
9 energy channel of said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~;  
10 filling said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~, with  
11 a first calibration solution containing at least one element of  
12 interest in said fluid of interest in known concentration above a  
13 minimum detection level of x-ray detection equipment to be used  
14 for said detecting and measuring;  
15 exposing the filled preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~  
16 to x-rays;  
17 acquiring sensitivity data related to a rate at which  
18 photons are detected to be emitted from at least one sensitivity  
19 data energy channel of said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent~~  
20 ~~cell~~;  
21 applying said voltage differential across the electrodes of  
22 said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~, below an  
23 electrochemical potential of said at least one element of  
24 interest and below an electrolysis potential of a second  
25 calibration solution;

26        flowing said second calibration solution containing said at  
27        least one element of interest in said fluid of interest in known  
28        concentration below a minimum detection level of x-ray detection  
29        equipment to be used for said detecting and measuring through the  
30        central flow interelectrode gap of said preconcentration cell ~~or~~  
31        ~~equivalent cell~~, at a substantially constant flow rate;

32        exposing said preconcentration cell ~~or equivalent cell~~ with  
33        said second calibration solution therein to x-rays;

34        acquiring ion extraction rate data related to a rate at  
35        which photons are detected to be emitted from at least one ion  
36        extraction rate data energy channel of said preconcentration cell  
37        ~~or equivalent cell~~; and

38        associating said background data, said sensitivity data, and  
39        said ion extraction rate data with said preconcentration cell.

1        100. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2        comprising the steps of:

3        applying said voltage differential across said electrodes  
4        below an electrochemical potential of said at least one element  
5        of interest and below an electrolysis potential of said fluid,  
6        suspected to contain at least one element of interest;

7        flowing said fluid through said central flow interelectrode  
8        gap at a substantially constant flow rate;

9        exposing said preconcentration cell with said fluid therein  
10       to x-rays; and

11       acquiring said test data related to a rate at which photons  
12       are detected to be emitted from at least one test data energy  
13       channel of said preconcentration cell.

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1 101. (original) The method of claim 100, further comprising  
2 the step of:  
3 analyzing said test data and deducing therefrom a  
4 concentration in said fluid, if any, of the suspected at least  
5 one element of interest.

1 102. (previously presented) The method of claim 99, further  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3 applying said voltage differential across said electrodes  
4 below an electrochemical potential of said at least one element  
5 of interest and below an electrolysis potential of said fluid,  
6 suspected to contain at least one element of interest;  
7 flowing said fluid through said central flow interelectrode  
8 gap at a substantially constant flow rate;  
9 exposing said preconcentration cell with said fluid therein  
10 to x-rays; and  
11 acquiring said test data related to a rate at which photons  
12 are detected to be emitted from at least one test data energy  
13 channel of said preconcentration cell.

1 103. (original) The method of claim 102, further comprising  
2 the step of:  
3 analyzing said test data in relation to said background  
4 data, said sensitivity data, and said ion extraction rate data,  
5 and deducing therefrom a concentration in said fluid, if any, of  
6 the suspected at least one element of interest.

1 104. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the step of:  
3 exposing said preconcentration cell to x-rays substantially

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4 transmitted through said upper x-ray transmission window, while  
5 flowing said fluid and while applying said voltage differential.

1 105. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, said step  
2 of applying said voltage differential further comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 ceasing flow of said fluid while applying an electrostatic  
5 charge across said electrodes and thereby maintaining ions from  
6 said at least one element entrained in said electrodes;

7 transporting said ionic preconcentration cell to an x-ray  
8 source means for emitting x-rays toward said preconcentration  
9 cell while applying said electrostatic charge; and

10 exposing said preconcentration cell to x-rays from said x-  
11 ray source means while applying said electrostatic charge.

1 106. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 controlling a flow rate of said fluid through said ionic  
4 preconcentration cell so as to maintain  $\epsilon$ , which designates a  
5 predetermined percentage of at least one element of interest to  
6 be extracted from said fluid, below approximately 5% for said at  
7 least one element of interest.

1 107. (previously presented) The method of claim 106, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 maintaining said  $\epsilon$  below an extraction percentage selected  
4 from an extraction percentage group consisting of approximately  
5 4%, 3%, 2%, and 1%.

1 108. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the step of:

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controlling a flow rate  $F$  of said fluid through said ionic  
preconcentration cell and maintaining said  $F$  at a substantially  
constant level so as to maintain  $\varepsilon$ , which designates a  
predetermined percentage of at least one element of interest to  
be extracted from said fluid and is specified by:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Gamma_{ie}}{\Gamma_{is}} = \frac{\sigma \Phi w_i}{q d w_f n_f C F} \times 100\%,$$

below approximately 5% for said at least one element of interest;  
wherein:

$\Gamma_{ie}$  and  $\Gamma_{is}$  designate rates at which ions of said at least  
one element of interest are respectively extracted from said  
fluid by said cell and supplied to said cell by said fluid,  $\sigma$   
designates a composite conductivity of said fluid,  $\Phi$  designates  
said voltage differential applied across said electrodes,  $d$   
designates said predetermined interelectrode gap width of said  
central flow interelectrode gap,  $q = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$  Coulomb designates  
the unit charge,  $A$  designates an ordinary surface area covered by  
said electrodes,  $n_f$  designates a number density of said fluid,  
 $w_i$  and  $w_f$  designate atomic / molecular weights, respectively, of  
said at least one element of interest and of said fluid, and  $C$   
designates a concentration of said at least one element of  
interest in said fluid; and

having said concentration  $C$  in a range where conductivity  
varies substantially linearly with concentration, with  $C$  in units  
of parts per billion, wherein  $\sigma$  is approximated by:

$$\sigma \approx 2 \times 10^{-9} C / \text{Ohm} - \text{cm}.$$

1 109. (previously presented) The method of claim 108, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 maintaining said  $\varepsilon$  below an extraction percentage selected  
4 from an extraction percentage group consisting of approximately  
5 4%, 3%, 2%, and 1%.

1 110. (original) The method of claim 62, further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 applying said voltage differential across said electrodes  
4 below an electrochemical potential of at least one element of  
5 interest and below an electrolysis potential of said fluid.

1 111. (currently amended) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 monitoring a total non-saturated concentration of dissolved  
4 ions in said upper and lower high surface area electrodes ~~while~~  
5 ~~said electrodes are not saturated~~, by monitoring a leakage  
6 current from said cell.

1 112. (currently amended) The method of claim 111, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 measuring at least one element of interest comprising ultra-  
4 low trace, high valence ions in said fluid, based on said  
5 detecting ~~said the non-saturated~~ saturation state.

1 113. (element of interest) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 monitoring a total non-saturated concentration of dissolved  
4 ions in said upper and lower high surface area electrodes ~~while~~  
5 ~~said electrodes are not saturated~~ by monitoring a leakage current  
6 in said cell; and

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7        adjusting the flow of said fluid through said ionic  
8        preconcentration cell to control a percentage of said ions  
9        extracted from said fluid, based on said monitoring of said  
10       leakage current.

1       114.    (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2       comprising the steps of:

3              setting an impurity concentration  $C$ , in a range where  
4       conductivity varies substantially linearly with concentration, to  
5       a predetermined desired concentration detection level; and

6              controlling how long said fluid flows through said ionic  
7       preconcentration cell by flowing said fluid for a time  $t$  given  
8       by:

9       
$$t \propto \frac{Sl}{\sigma} \propto \frac{Sl}{C}, \text{ wherein:}$$

10        $S$  designates a sensitivity of x-ray detection equipment to  
11       be used for said detecting and measuring;

12        $l$  designates a thickness of said upper high surface area  
13       electrode; and

14        $\sigma$  designates a composite conductivity of said fluid.

1       115.    (currently amended) The method of claim 62, further  
2       comprising the step of:

3              triggering an action in response to detecting that a  
4       concentration of at least one element of interest in said fluid  
5       has passed a predetermined, non-saturated threshold  
6       concentration.

1       116.    (previously presented) The method of claim 115, said step  
2       of triggering further comprising the step of:



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3 maintaining said concentration within a predetermined  
4 concentration range by injecting at least one element into said  
5 fluid as said action in response to said detecting.

1 117. (previously presented) The method of claim 115, said step  
2 of triggering further comprising the step of:

3 maintaining said concentration within a predetermined  
4 concentration range by diluting at least one diluting fluid into  
5 said fluid as said action in response to said detecting.

1 118. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 cleaning said preconcentration cell after use by releasing  
4 ions accumulated within said high specific surface area of said  
5 electrodes into said fluid, after the accumulated ions have been  
6 exposed to x-rays and fluorescence from said preconcentration  
7 cell has been detected.

1 119. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, further  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 emitting x-rays toward said preconcentration cell  
4 substantially transmitted through said upper x-ray transmission  
5 window; and

6 detecting fluoresced energy emitted by said preconcentration  
7 cell due to said emitting x-rays toward said preconcentration  
8 cell, through said upper x-ray transmission window.

1 120. (previously presented) The method of claim 119, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 analyzing the detected x-ray fluoresced energy and deducing  
4 therefrom a concentration in said fluid of at least one element

5 of interest in said fluid.

1 121. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 downloading and analyzing said test data from said ionic  
4 preconcentration cell using a telecommunications link.

1 122. (previously presented) The system of claim 3, wherein:  
2 said transportable voltage supply is embedded into a body of  
3 said ionic preconcentration cell.

1 123. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 providing said transportable voltage supply embedded into a  
4 body of said ionic preconcentration cell.

1 124-138. (cancelled)

1 139. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 124,~~ An ionic  
2 preconcentration cell apparatus for identifying and measuring  
3 concentrations of elements in fluids, comprising:  
4 an upper high surface area electrode comprising a high  
5 specific surface area thereof;  
6 a lower high surface area electrode comprising a high  
7 specific surface area thereof, substantially parallel to said  
8 upper high surface area electrode;  
9 a central flow interelectrode gap separating said upper and  
10 lower high surface area electrodes by a predetermined  
11 interelectrode gap width;  
12 fluid flow means for flowing a fluid through said central  
13 flow interelectrode gap; and  
14 an upper x-ray transmission window in intimate contact with

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15 | an upper surface of said upper high surface area electrode; said  
16 | upper x-ray transmission window comprising:  
17 |       an atomic number below 10;  
18 |       structural rigidity to support up to 1/10 atm. of pressure  
19 | without bowing more than approximately 100 microns;  
20 |       substantial impermeability relative to said fluid;  
21 |       x-ray transparency greater than 90% for characteristic  
22 | photon energies from an element of interest for which a fluidic  
23 | concentration is to be measured;  
24 |       x-ray scattering therefrom minimized to less than  
25 | approximately 10% of radiation scattered from a column of said  
26 | fluid equal to one optical depth in said fluid of a  
27 | characteristic photonic energy from an element of interest for  
28 | which a fluidic concentration is to be measured; and  
29 |       freedom from any single contaminant in excess of 1 part per  
30 | million, when measured by x-ray fluorescence.

1 | 140. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 130,~~ An ionic  
2 | preconcentration cell apparatus for identifying and measuring  
3 | concentrations of elements in fluids, comprising:  
4 |       an upper high surface area electrode comprising a high  
5 | specific surface area thereof;  
6 |       a lower high surface area electrode comprising a high  
7 | specific surface area thereof, substantially parallel to said  
8 | upper high surface area electrode;  
9 |       a central flow interelectrode gap separating said upper and  
10 | lower high surface area electrodes by a predetermined  
11 | interelectrode gap width;

12 fluid flow means for flowing a fluid through said central  
13 flow interelectrode gap;  
14 an upper x-ray transmission window in intimate contact with  
15 an upper surface of said upper high surface area electrode; and  
16 a lower x-ray transmission window in intimate contact with a  
17 lower surface of said lower high surface area electrode; said  
18 lower x-ray transmission window comprising:  
19 an atomic number below 10;  
20 structural rigidity to support up to 1/10 atm. of pressure  
21 without bowing more than approximately 100 microns;  
22 substantial impermeability relative to said fluid;  
23 x-ray transparency greater than 90% for characteristic  
24 photon energies from an element of interest for which a fluidic  
25 concentration is to be measured;  
26 x-ray scattering therefrom minimized to less than  
27 approximately 10% of radiation scattered from a column of said  
28 fluid equal to one optical depth in said fluid of a  
29 characteristic photonic energy from an element of interest for  
30 which a fluidic concentration is to be measured; and  
31 freedom from any single contaminant in excess of 1 part per  
32 million, when measured by x-ray fluorescence.

1 141-156. (cancelled)

1 157. (currently amended). ~~The method of claim 143, further~~  
2 ~~comprising the step of~~ A method for identifying and measuring  
3 concentrations of elements in fluids, comprising the steps of:  
4 flowing a fluid through a central flow interelectrode gap of  
5 an ionic preconcentration cell separating an upper high specific

6 surface area electrode from a lower high specific surface area  
7 electrode of said ionic preconcentration cell by a predetermined  
8 interelectrode gap width;  
9 applying a voltage differential between said upper high  
10 surface area electrode and said lower high surface area electrode  
11 while said fluid is flowing through said central flow  
12 interelectrode gap;  
13 passing x-rays through an upper x-ray transmission window  
14 intimately contacting an upper surface of said upper high surface  
15 area electrode;  
16 deducing an identity, or measurement of concentration, of at  
17 least one element in said fluid based on a response of said  
18 preconcentration cell to said x-rays; and  
19 providing said upper x-ray transmission window comprising:  
20 an atomic number below 10;  
21 structural rigidity to support up to 1/10 atm. of pressure  
22 without bowing more than approximately 100 microns;  
23 substantial impermeability relative to said fluid;  
24 x-ray transparency greater than 90% for characteristic  
25 photon energies from an element of interest for which a fluidic  
26 concentration is to be measured by said method;  
27 x-ray scattering therefrom minimized to less than  
28 approximately 10% of radiation scattered from a column of said  
29 fluid equal to one optical depth in said fluid of a  
30 characteristic photonic energy from an element of interest for  
31 which a fluidic concentration is to be measured by said method;  
32 and

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33 freedom from any single contaminant in excess of 1 part per  
34 million, when measured by x-ray fluorescence.

1 158. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 148, further~~  
2 ~~comprising the step of~~ A method for identifying and measuring  
3 concentrations of elements in fluids, comprising the steps of:  
4 flowing a fluid through a central flow interelectrode gap of  
5 an ionic preconcentration cell separating an upper high specific  
6 surface area electrode from a lower high specific surface area  
7 electrode of said ionic preconcentration cell by a predetermined  
8 interelectrode gap width;  
9 applying a voltage differential between said upper high  
10 surface area electrode and said lower high surface area electrode  
11 while said fluid is flowing through said central flow  
12 interelectrode gap;  
13 passing x-rays through an upper x-ray transmission window  
14 intimately contacting an upper surface of said upper high surface  
15 area electrode;  
16 deducing an identity, or measurement of concentration, of at  
17 least one element in said fluid based on a response of said  
18 preconcentration cell to said x-rays;  
19 passing said x-rays through a lower x-ray transmission  
20 window intimately contacting a lower surface of said lower high  
21 surface area electrode; and  
22 providing said lower x-ray transmission window comprising:  
23 an atomic number below 10;  
24 structural rigidity to support up to 1/10 atm. of pressure  
25 without bowing more than approximately 100 microns;

26       substantial impermeability relative to said fluid;  
27       x-ray transparency greater than 90% for characteristic  
28 photon energies from an element of interest for which a fluidic  
29 concentration is to be measured by said method;  
30       x-ray scattering therefrom minimized to less than  
31 approximately 10% of radiation scattered from a column of said  
32 fluid equal to one optical depth in said fluid of a  
33 characteristic photonic energy from an element of interest for  
34 which a fluidic concentration is to be measured by said method;  
35 and  
36       freedom from any single contaminant in excess of 1 part per  
37 million, when measured by x-ray fluorescence.

1 159-160. (cancelled)

1 161. (previously presented) A method of optimizing fabrication  
2 of an ionic preconcentration cell for identifying and measuring  
3 concentrations of elements in fluids; said ionic preconcentration  
4 cell comprising an upper high surface area electrode comprising a  
5 high specific surface area thereof; a lower high surface area  
6 electrode comprising a high specific surface area thereof; and a  
7 central flow interelectrode gap separating said upper and lower  
8 high surface area electrodes by a predetermined interelectrode  
9 gap width; said method comprising the step of:

10       optimizing said upper high surface area electrode with an  
11 upper electrode thickness less than or equal to approximately an  
12 optical depth  $\ell$  of said upper high surface area electrode when  
13 wetted with a fluid to be flowed through said cell.

1 162. (currently amended) The optimization method of claim 161,

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2 wherein:

3 | said  $\ell = 1/(\mu * \rho)$ ; and wherein:

4  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said upper  
5 high surface area electrode when wetted with said fluid; and

6  $\rho$  designates a material density of said upper high surface  
7 area electrode when wetted with said fluid.

1 163. (previously presented) The optimization method of claim  
2 161, further comprising the step of:

3 optimizing said lower high surface area electrode with a  
4 lower electrode thickness less than or equal to approximately an  
5 optical depth  $\ell$  of said lower high surface area electrode when  
6 wetted with said fluid.

1 164. (currently amended) The optimization method of claim 163,  
2 wherein:

3 | said  $\ell = 1/(\mu * \rho)$ ; and wherein:

4  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said lower  
5 high surface area electrode when wetted with said fluid; and

6  $\rho$  designates a material density of said lower high surface  
7 area electrode when wetted with said fluid.

1 165. (previously presented) A method of optimizing fabrication  
2 of an ionic preconcentration cell for identifying and measuring  
3 concentrations of elements in fluids; said ionic preconcentration  
4 cell comprising an upper high surface area electrode comprising a  
5 high specific surface area thereof; a lower high surface area  
6 electrode comprising a high specific surface area thereof; and a  
7 central flow interelectrode gap separating said upper and lower



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8 high surface area electrodes by a predetermined interelectrode  
9 gap width; said method comprising the step of:  
10 optimizing said upper high surface area electrode with an  
11 upper electrode thickness less than or equal to approximately an  
12 optical depth  $\ell$  of said upper high surface area electrode when  
13 wetted with an element of interest for which a fluidic  
14 concentration is to be measured by said cell, in a fluid to be  
15 flowed through said cell.

1 166. (currently amended) The optimization method of claim 165,  
2 wherein:

3 | said  $\ell = 1/(\mu * \rho)$ ; and wherein:

4  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said upper  
5 high surface area electrode when wetted with said element of  
6 interest in said fluid; and

7  $\rho$  designates a material density of said upper high surface  
8 area electrode when wetted with said element of interest in said  
9 fluid.

1 167. (previously presented) The optimization method of claim  
2 165, further comprising the step of:

3 optimizing said lower high surface area electrode with a  
4 lower electrode thickness less than or equal to approximately an  
5 optical depth  $\ell$  of said lower high surface area electrode when  
6 wetted with said element of interest, in said fluid.

1 168. (currently amended) The optimization method of claim 167,  
2 wherein:

3 | said  $\ell = 1/(\mu * \rho)$ ; and wherein:



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4  $\mu$  designates a mass absorption coefficient of said lower  
 5 high surface area electrode when wetted with said element of  
 6 interest in said fluid; and

7  $\rho$  designates a material density of said lower high surface  
 8 area electrode when wetted with said element of interest in said  
 9 fluid.

1 169-176. (cancelled)

1 177. (currently amended) A method of optimizing fabrication of  
 2 an ionic preconcentration cell for identifying and measuring  
 3 concentrations of elements in fluids; said ionic preconcentration  
 4 cell comprising an upper high surface area electrode comprising a  
 5 high specific surface area thereof; a lower high surface area  
 6 electrode comprising a high specific surface area thereof; and a  
 7 central flow interelectrode gap separating said upper and lower  
 8 high surface area electrodes by a predetermined interelectrode  
 9 gap width; said method comprising the step of:

10 optimizing said central flow interelectrode gap comprising  
 11 said predetermined interelectrode gap width, designated  $d$ , within  
 12 an interelectrode gap range specified by:

$$13 \quad d = \frac{\sigma \Phi w_i}{q \epsilon w_f n_f C F} \times 100\% \approx 2 \times 10^{-9} \frac{\Phi w_i A}{q \epsilon w_f n_f F} \times 100\% \propto \frac{\Phi A}{\epsilon F}; \text{ wherein:}$$

14  $\epsilon$  designates a predetermined percentage of at least one  
 15 element of interest to be extracted from a fluid to be flowed  
 16 through said cell,  $\sigma$  designates a composite conductivity of said  
 17 fluid,  $\Phi$  designates a said voltage differential applied across  
 18 said electrodes,  $q = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$  Coulomb designates the unit

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19 charge,  $A$  designates an ordinary surface area covered by said  
20 electrodes,  $n_f$  designates a number density of said fluid,  $w_i$  and  
21  $w_f$  designate atomic / molecular weights, respectively, of said at  
22 least one element of interest and of said fluid,  $C$  designates a  
23 concentration of said at least one element of interest in said  
24 fluid, and  $F$  designates a flow rate of said fluid through said  
25 ionic preconcentration cell;

26 said high surface area electrodes further comprise said  
27 ordinary surface area  $A$  approximately equal to an interrogation  
28 spot area of x-rays to which said preconcentration cell is to be  
29 exposed;

30 said  $\varepsilon$  is chosen to be below approximately 5% for said at  
31 least one element of interest;

32 said  $\Phi$  is chosen to be below an electrochemical potential of  
33 said at least one element of interest and below an electrolysis  
34 potential of said fluid;

35 said  $F$  is chosen to exert no more than approximately .1 atm.  
36 of pressure upon an upper x-ray transmission window of said ionic  
37 preconcentration cell in intimate contact with an upper surface  
38 of said upper high surface area electrode;

39 said  $n_f$  and said  $w_f$  are chosen with reference to said at  
40 least one element of interest; and

41 said  $w_i$  is chosen with reference to said fluid.

1 178. (previously presented) The optimization method of claim  
2 177, wherein:

3 as a consequence of said optimizing, said central flow  
4 interelectrode gap comprises said predetermined interelectrode

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5 gap width,  $d$ , with:

6 a minimum gap width selected from a minimum gap width group  
7 consisting of 2 mm, 1 mm, .5 mm, and .25 mm; and

8 a maximum gap width selected from a maximum gap width group  
9 consisting of 2 mm, 5 mm, and 10 mm.

1 179-190 (cancelled)

1 191. (previously presented) An ionic preconcentration cell  
2 apparatus for identifying and measuring concentrations of  
3 elements in fluids, comprising:

4 an upper high surface area electrode comprising a high  
5 specific surface area thereof;

6 a lower high surface area electrode comprising a high  
7 specific surface area thereof, substantially parallel to said  
8 upper high surface area electrode;

9 a central flow interelectrode gap separating said upper and  
10 lower high surface area electrodes by a predetermined  
11 interelectrode gap width;

12 fluid flow means for flowing a fluid through said central  
13 flow interelectrode gap; and

14 flow control means for controlling a flow rate of said fluid  
15 through said ionic preconcentration cell so as to maintain  $\varepsilon$ ,  
16 which designates a predetermined percentage of at least one  
17 element of interest to be extracted from said fluid, below  
18 approximately 5% for said at least one element of interest.

1 192. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 191,  
2 wherein said  $\varepsilon$  is maintained below an extraction percentage

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3 selected from an extraction percentage group consisting of  
4 approximately 4%, 3%, 2%, and 1%.

1 193. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 191,  
2 further comprising:

3 voltage application means for applying a voltage  
4 differential between said upper high surface area electrode and  
5 said lower high surface area electrode while said fluid is  
6 flowing through said central flow interelectrode gap; and

7 said flow control means for controlling said flow rate  $F$  of  
8 said fluid through said ionic preconcentration cell and  
9 maintaining said  $F$  at a substantially constant level so as to  
10 maintain said  $\varepsilon$ , which is specified by:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Gamma_{ie}}{\Gamma_{is}} = \frac{\sigma \Phi w_i}{qd w_f n_f CF} \times 100\%,$$

12 below approximately 5% for said at least one element of interest;  
13 wherein:

14  $\Gamma_{ie}$  and  $\Gamma_{is}$  designate rates at which ions of said at least  
15 one element of interest are respectively extracted from said  
16 fluid by said cell and supplied to said cell by said fluid,  $\sigma$   
17 designates a composite conductivity of said fluid,  $\Phi$  designates  
18 a potential applied by said voltage application means across said  
19 electrodes,  $d$  designates said predetermined interelectrode gap  
20 width of said central flow interelectrode gap,  $q = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$   
21 Coulomb designates the unit charge,  $A$  designates an ordinary  
22 surface area covered by said electrodes,  $n_f$  designates a number  
23 density of said fluid,  $w_i$  and  $w_f$  designate atomic / molecular  
24 weights, respectively, of said at least one element of interest

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25 and of said fluid, and C designates a concentration of said at  
26 least one element of interest in said fluid; and  
27 for having said concentration C in a range where  
28 conductivity varies substantially linearly with concentration,  
29 with C in units of parts per billion, wherein  $\sigma$  is approximated  
30 by:

31 
$$\sigma \approx 2 \times 10^{-9} C / \text{Ohm} - \text{cm} .$$

1 194. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 193, wherein  
2 said  $\epsilon$  is maintained below an extraction percentage selected from  
3 an ~~the~~ extraction percentage group consisting of approximately  
4 4%, 3%, 2%, and 1%.

1 195. (previously presented) A method for identifying and  
2 measuring concentrations of elements in fluids, comprising the  
3 steps of:  
4 flowing a fluid through a central flow interelectrode gap of  
5 an ionic preconcentration cell separating an upper high specific  
6 surface area electrode from a lower high specific surface area  
7 electrode of said ionic preconcentration cell by a predetermined  
8 interelectrode gap width;  
9 applying a voltage differential between said upper high  
10 surface area electrode and said lower high surface area electrode  
11 while said fluid is flowing through said central flow  
12 interelectrode gap;  
13 exposing said cell to x-rays;  
14 deducing an identity, or measurement of concentration, of at  
15 least one element in said fluid based on a response of said  
16 preconcentration cell to said x-rays; and

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17 controlling a flow rate of said fluid through said ionic  
18 preconcentration cell so as to maintain  $\varepsilon$ , which designates a  
19 predetermined percentage of at least one element of interest to  
20 be extracted from said fluid, below approximately 5% for said at  
21 least one element of interest.

1 196. (previously presented) The method of claim 195, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 maintaining said  $\varepsilon$  below an extraction percentage selected  
4 from an extraction percentage group consisting of approximately  
5 4%, 3%, 2%, and 1%.

1 197. (previously presented) The method of claim 195, said step  
2 of controlling said flow rate further comprising the step of:

3 controlling said flow rate  $F$  of said fluid through said  
4 ionic preconcentration cell and maintaining said  $F$  at a  
5 substantially constant level so as to maintain said  $\varepsilon$ , which is  
6 specified by:

7 
$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Gamma_{ie}}{\Gamma_{is}} = \frac{\sigma \Phi w_i}{qd w_f n_f CF} \times 100\%,$$

8 below approximately 5% for said at least one element of interest;  
9 wherein:

10  $\Gamma_{ie}$  and  $\Gamma_{is}$  designate rates at which ions of said at least  
11 one element of interest are respectively extracted from said  
12 fluid by said cell and supplied to said cell by said fluid,  $\sigma$   
13 designates a composite conductivity of said fluid,  $\Phi$  designates  
14 said voltage differential applied across said electrodes,  $d$   
15 designates said predetermined interelectrode gap width of said  
16 central flow interelectrode gap,  $q = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$  Coulomb designates



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17 the unit charge,  $A$  designates an ordinary surface area covered by  
18 said electrodes,  $n_f$  designates a number density of said fluid,  
19  $w_i$  and  $w_f$  designate atomic / molecular weights, respectively, of  
20 said at least one element of interest and of said fluid, and  $C$   
21 designates a concentration of said at least one element of  
22 interest in said fluid; and

23 having said concentration  $C$  in a range where conductivity  
24 varies substantially linearly with concentration, with  $C$  in units  
25 of parts per billion, wherein  $\sigma$  is approximated by:

26 
$$\sigma \approx 2 \times 10^{-9} C / \text{Ohm-cm}.$$

1 198. (previously presented) The method of claim 197, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 maintaining said  $\varepsilon$  below an extraction percentage selected  
4 from an extraction percentage group consisting of approximately  
5 4%, 3%, 2%, and 1%.

1 199. (previously presented) An ionic preconcentration cell  
2 apparatus for identifying and measuring concentrations of  
3 elements in fluids, comprising:

4 an upper high surface area electrode comprising a high  
5 specific surface area thereof;

6 a lower high surface area electrode comprising a high  
7 specific surface area thereof, substantially parallel to said  
8 upper high surface area electrode;

9 a central flow interelectrode gap separating said upper and  
10 lower high surface area electrodes by a predetermined  
11 interelectrode gap width;

12 fluid flow means for flowing a fluid through said central

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13 flow interelectrode gap; and  
14 time control means for controlling how long said fluid flows  
15 through said ionic preconcentration cell based on setting an  
16 impurity concentration  $C$ , in a range where conductivity varies  
17 substantially linearly with concentration, to a predetermined  
18 desired concentration detection level and flowing said fluid for  
19 a time  $t$  given by:

20 
$$t \propto \frac{Sl}{\sigma} \propto \frac{Sl}{C}; \text{ wherein:}$$

21  $S$  designates a sensitivity of x-ray detection equipment to  
22 be used for said detecting and measuring;

23  $l$  designates a thickness of said upper high surface area  
24 electrode; and

25  $\sigma$  designates a composite conductivity of said fluid.

1 200. (currently amended) A method for identifying and  
2 measuring concentrations of elements in fluids, comprising the  
3 steps of:  
4 flowing a fluid through a central flow interelectrode gap of  
5 an ionic preconcentration cell separating an upper high specific  
6 surface area electrode from a lower high specific surface area  
7 electrode of said ionic preconcentration cell by a predetermined  
8 interelectrode gap width;  
9 applying a voltage differential between said upper high  
10 surface area electrode and said lower high surface area electrode  
11 while said fluid is flowing through said central flow  
12 interelectrode gap;  
13 exposing said cell to x-rays;

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14 deducing an identity, or measurement of concentration, of at  
15 least one element in said fluid based on a response of said  
16 preconcentration cell to said x-rays;

17 setting an impurity concentration  $C$ , in a range where  
18 conductivity varies substantially linearly with concentration, to  
19 a predetermined desired concentration detection level; and

20 controlling how long said fluid flows through said ionic  
21 preconcentration cell by flowing said fluid for a time  $t$  given  
22 by:

23  $t \propto \frac{Sl}{\sigma} \propto \frac{Sl}{C}$ , wherein:

24  $S$  designates a sensitivity of x-ray detection equipment to  
25 be used for said identifying ~~detecting~~ and measuring;

26  $l$  designates a thickness of said upper high surface area  
27 electrode; and

28  $\sigma$  designates a composite conductivity of said fluid.